

# Caledon Comment

Winter 2020 - 2021

Vol 56, No 4



*Neither Rain nor Snow nor Sleet Can Stop  
Our Intrepid Trail Maintenance Team*



**Jamie Matheson, Sandra Green and John Maxwell  
answer the call when a fallen tree blocks the trail.  
Photos by John Maxwell.**

**More Volunteer Opportunities are Available.  
See Page 20**

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Opinions expressed in the Caledon Comment are not necessarily the views of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club unless stated as such. Advertisements do not necessarily imply endorsement by the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club or The Bruce Trail Conservancy. Send address changes to:  
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PO Box 857 Hamilton, ON L8N 3N9



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news and photos from the trail.

*Cal E-News* is our club email newsletter that keeps members up to date on major club activities between editions of the



Caledon Comment. Subscribe at:  
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Visit our website, [www.caledonbrucestrail.org](http://www.caledonbrucestrail.org) for lots more information about us, including the most up to date hike listings and to sign up for our blog.

### DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING EDITION:

**JANUARY 10, 2021**

Email your submissions to:  
jeankerins@yahoo.ca



*Grace Kim leads fellow members of the Caledon Hills Club on a hike along the Jeju Olle Friendship Trail in the Hockley Valley. As well, Grace has hiked parts of the Jeju Olle in Korea. (See article on next page.)*

*Left to right: Louise Carberry, Grace Kim, Andree Zeritsch, Sally Cohen, Sandy Green and Marilyn Ross.  
Photo by David Lamb.*

### ADVERTISING

<i>SIZE</i>	<i>RATE</i>
Business Card (3.5 x 2.0)	\$30
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Full Page (7.5 x 10)	\$145

HST must be added  
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"The Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club"

# Jeju Olle Friendship Trail

In September 2011, the Bruce Trail Conservancy's first Friendship Trail was created in Caledon's beautiful Hockley Valley. To celebrate our international trail, club member Grace Kim and representatives of the Caledon Hills Club recreated the inaugural hike along the Jeju Olle Friendship Trail, recording the event on a video <https://youtu.be/pgqTKD-UgnI> that has been shared with members of our sister trail on Jeju Island, located just off the coast of South Korea. Grace writes:

Hello (Anyung haseyo),

My name is Grace Kim. Thanks to the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club for giving me the opportunity to introduce the Jeju Olle Trail in Korea to Canadian hikers and celebrate the friendship between Canada and Korea.

When I discovered the friendship trail linking Jeju Olle in Korea and the Caledon Section of the Bruce Trail in Canada, I was thrilled. Here I was in Hockley Valley thinking about my wonderful memories of Jeju Olle. I went to Korea to visit my family in November 2018. While there, I found out there was an Olle festival happening, so I happily joined in on the festival for three days. I had a great time walking parts of Jeju Olle along beaches, through villages, and following some mountainous stretches.



In both places, the benefits of hiking are highlighted, with a shared belief that hiking promotes physical, mental, and emotional health. I am so grateful for this, and for the actual friendships found and nurtured out on the trails. Seeing the connection between Korea and Canada through this friendship trail warms my heart.

안녕하세요( Anyung haseyo),

토론토에 사는 그레이스 김입니다.

캐나다 온타리오 캘리돈 지역, 허클리 밸리(Hockley Valley)에 있는 제주 올레(Jeju Olle) '우정의 길' 10주년을 축하드립니다. 제주 올레는 저에게 아름다운 추억을 안겨준 곳입니다. 제가 2년 전 방문했을 때까지만 해도 허클리 밸리에 올레길이 있는 줄 몰랐습니다. 이제 만나서 산행을 함께 할 수 있는 친구들이 있고, 한국과 캐나다가 이 올레 길로 인해 서로 교류할 수 있다고 생각하니 마음이 따뜻해 집니다. 10년이나 지속된 이 '우정의 길'은 지금 한창 갖가지 색깔의 단풍으로 아름답습니다. 마치 캐나다 국기 단풍잎이 상징하는 것 처럼 피부색깔이 다른 여러 민족이 어울려 사는 좋은 나라입니다. 우리가 살아가는 동안 '우정'을 지니고 산다는 것이 얼마나 가치가 있는지요. 특히 산행을 통해서 갖는 우정은 육체적으로나 정신적으로 큰 유익이 있음을 깨닫게 됩니다. Covid19 이 속히 물러가고 좀 더 자유로운 여행을 할 수 있는 날을 기대해 봅니다. 훗날 언젠가 한국에 있는 제주 올레길을 여러분과 함께 오를 수 있는 날이 오기를 기원하면서...

이 지면을 내주신 캘리돈 지역 부르스트레일 관계자분들께 감사드립니다.



Hockley Valley



Jeju Island

For more information about the BTC's Friendship Trail program, go to <https://brucetrail.org/pages/explore-the-trail/international-friendship-trails>

## Drive-In Movie Fundraiser A Success—by Linda Vezina

After months of isolation, we needed something fun to celebrate the end of a long, hot summer. What could we do after so many cancellations? Fortunately, the coronavirus spurred the creativity of our Caledon Hills Bruce Trail fundraising team to try something new for 2020 - a classic warm weather experience, a DRIVE-IN MOVIE!

Teaming up with the Mustang Drive-In Theatre in Guelph, we hosted a conservation themed double header. Over one hundred nature-loving people donned their masks and joined us for a night under the stars to enjoy a cinematic experience from the comfort of their own vehicles. With a gaggle of hiking buddies parked around each other, everyone was supporting the country's foremost environmental charity, the Bruce Trail Conservancy.

With this first ever Drive-In movie event by the Caledon Hills Club, our purpose was to build awareness of the land preservation work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy and its volunteers, and of our vision: *Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.*

To our great delight, this event raised over \$4,300 in donations for the Bruce Trail Conservancy to help secure the remaining vulnerable 32% of the conservation corridor along the Niagara Escarpment that contains the Bruce Trail.

Thank you to all who attended and donated. As Michael McDonald said when showing the slides of the trees and wildlife that the BTC has protected – “It’s your trail, it’s your conservation corridor, it’s your donations – it’s you who have made this happen. Thank you for that!”

Thank you to our sponsors – Loops & Lattes Hiking Guides, Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop in Guelph, and Guelph Volkswagen. You made a vital contribution to this fundraising event, and we hope it will help your business by having your logo ‘up in lights’ at the Drive-In. You helped make this event successful and we urge our readers to consider these fine businesses when making purchasing decisions.



Thank you to our partner – Mustang Drive-In Theatre owner John Dadetia. And a big thank you to Michael McDonald and his team at the BTC, and all the CHBTC volunteers who were the boots on the ground organizing the event and masks on the faces at the event. Your helping hands and big hearts were needed, and you came through with flying colours despite Covid-19. We could not have achieved this success without you.



## Sean Roper's 100 Miles for the Bruce Trail—by Marilyn Ross

It was Friday October 2nd at 6:00 pm when Sean Roper stood in the Hockley Valley parking lot, getting ready to start his approximately 27-hour, 100 mile run to his home in Milton. Sean would be using many portions of the Caledon Section of the Bruce Trail.

Sean left the parking lot with two support crew who would run the first 6 hours with him. Others would take over as a fresh support crew at that point. He ran through the night, all day Saturday and into the evening when he reached his Milton home at approximately 9:00 pm.

Sean set up a Go Fund Me page so that all proceeds raised from his run would go to the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club.

Sean stated in his Go Fund Me page:

*“When the Trail Fix Relay event was created in 2019, we partnered with the Caledon Hills Club of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, in an effort to support their work maintaining the hundred-plus kilometres of Bruce Trail routes within their region. Our hope was to do more in this our second year, but with the uncertainties surrounding events in the time of COVID-19, most races and race organizers have been forced into survival mode. Many fundraising causes will likewise be feeling the strain.*

*Despite all this, I'm hoping to draw some good from the current situation, by creating my own personal fundraiser in support of the Bruce Trail. My goal is to run the original [Trail Fix racecourse](#) and other sections of the Bruce Trail to the equivalent of 100 miles on October 3rd.”*

Sean did run and complete the course raising almost \$3000 for our club which will be used for trail maintenance and for purchasing land to take more trail off the roads. We want to thank Sean for this outstanding donation to our club.



## The Hockleycrest Cross-Country Ski Trails

With the arrival of winter, there are new ways to enjoy the Bruce Trail: snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. For some people, there is nothing better than gliding silently across the landscape on a pair of skinny skis. Caledon Hills is the only one of the nine Bruce Trail clubs that maintains a section of trail specifically for skiing.

Known as the Hockleycrest Ski Trails, the network consists of 15 km of trails north of Mono's 5 Sideroad and east of Airport Road, including the main Bruce Trail, Hockleycrest Side Trail, Harmony Side Trail, plus a number of additional trails that are opened only in winter and only for skiing. (Check the club website for a map of the trails) Club member Dave Moule, who along with his wife Sally owns Hockleycrest, has developed and improved the trail network over the past 20 years. Starting in 2014, an ATV equipped with caterpillar tracks has been used to pull a home-made groomer over the trails to provide a smooth, packed snow surface for skiing. Track-setting is also carried out on some portions of the network. The trails are suitable for intermediate skiers using the traditional Classic style skiing technique. With a groomed width of 1.5 metres, the trails are not wide enough for the newer skate-skiing technique.

Access to the trails is from the Bruce Trail parking lot on the 5 Side Road east of Airport Road.

The trails at Hockleycrest are varied. The central section is relatively flat to gently rolling, while the southern part is a bit more exciting, with a couple of challenging hills. The northern portion has a number of interesting hills where skiers can satisfy their need for speed, though all of them can be handled safely if skied in the indicated direction.



One of the challenges of managing a ski trail network on the Bruce Trail is keeping the different user groups separate from each other. Walking and skiing are not really compatible activities on the same trail, since walkers and skiers move at different speeds, and the deep, hard-packed footprints of hikers spoil the smooth, moderately packed snow surface that skiers enjoy. In designing the network, an effort has been made to provide separate trails for hikers and skiers in order to maximize the enjoyment and safety of each group. Signs are posted to advise trail users which trails are reserved for skiing only.

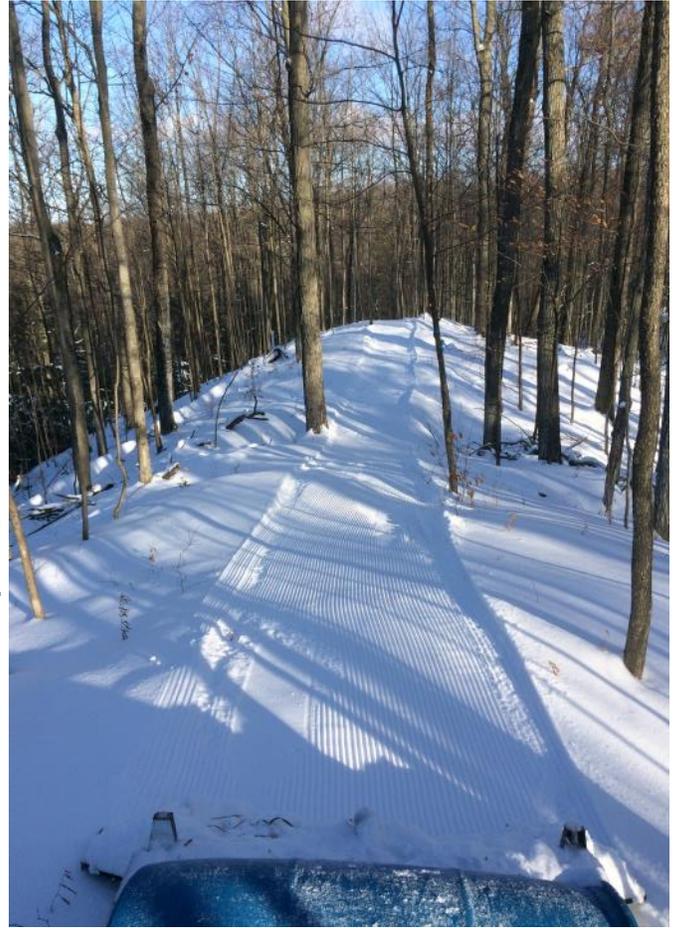
*Ski Trails Continued*

The general rule is that only the main Bruce Trail (blazed with white blazes) and the Hockleycrest and Harmony Side Trails (blazed with blue blazes) are available for hiking. All other trails are reserved exclusively for the use of skiers. Where skiers and hikers must share the trail, signage is posted asking hikers to keep to one side, while skiers keep to the other side.

There are 2 exceptions to the above rule. One is that a short section of the main trail is closed to hikers in the winter, so that it can be enjoyed by skiers. A winter alternate route is provided for walkers. The second is that, during the winter, an exclusive snowshoe trail named Peter's Path is opened to provide walkers with additional territory to explore.

For details of the seasonal openings and closures, see the Bruce Trail Conservancy website on the [Trail Changes](#) page.

Up to date information on snow conditions and grooming status on the ski trails can be found on the blog: [www.hockleycrest.blogspot.com](http://www.hockleycrest.blogspot.com).



## LOOPS & LATTES HIKING GUIDES



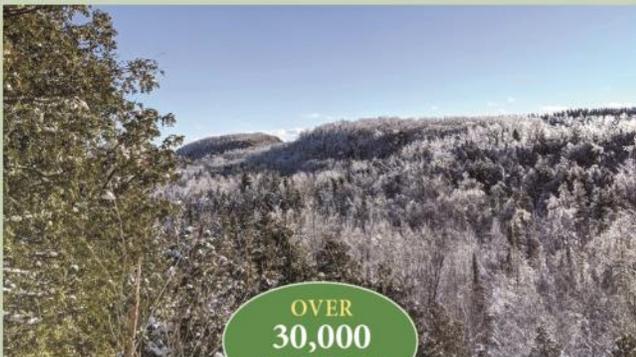
# GIVE THE GIFT OF HIKING



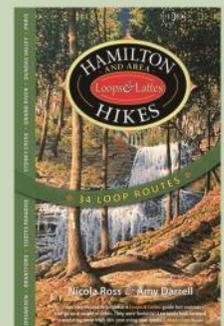
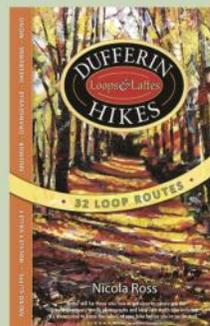
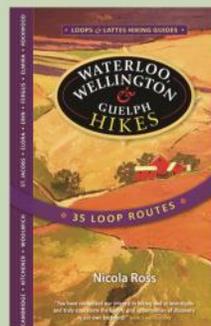
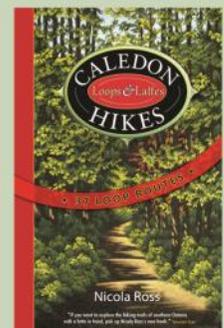
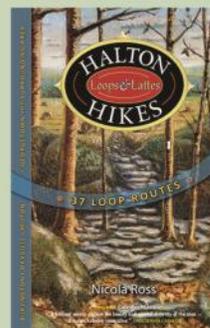
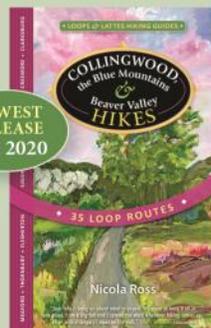
“Thank you again for writing these books because we all love hiking and are always looking for new and exciting locations.”

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NEWEST RELEASE  
Fall 2020



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## Meet Heather Murch, Our New Trail Director—by Jean Kerins



Trained as a professional engineer, working in heavy industrial construction as an Environment, Health and Safety Manager, Heather Murch comes to her new role as Trail Director for the Caledon Hills section with some obvious talents. Knowing that she has big shoes to fill with the departure of Joan Richard who held the position for most of the last decade, Heather is wasting no time getting familiar with our section of the Trail. Let's take a few minutes to meet Heather Murch.

As retirement approached for Heather, finding a good fit for her retirement years became a priority. Building on discussions with a coach, Heather knew she wanted to focus her newfound time out in nature. After contacting the Bruce Trail Conservancy, she snagged an invite to a Caledon Hills Board meeting where she generously took on the role of Director at Large, then Membership Director.

During this time, Heather's introduction to hiking was a Caledon end-to-end that was offered by Sally Cohen and Dave Moule. She could not have had a better introduction to the world of hiking! Over the next couple of years, Heather completed two end-to-ends of the entire Bruce Trail and is currently working on the third pass at a more leisurely pace. Heather is definitely hooked, and when the position of Trail Director opened up, Heather jumped at the chance to take on the role. To be able to make a real contribution to the upkeep of the trail was too enticing for Heather to pass up.

In Caledon, our trail is divided into four quadrants, each with a leader who oversees approximately 8 Trail Captains, and the Trail Director acts as the co-ordinator for the entire group. Heather's learning curve is well underway as she has already met all the quadrant leaders and many of the Trail Captains. Learning every inch of the Trail is also very important, so Heather's hiking these days is mainly focussed in Caledon. Being a bit of a badge hound, Heather is currently earning Caledon's Sweetwater Badge which is a good way to get to know the Trail. In fact, Heather is planning to become a certified Hike Leader to get to know the trail even better. Heather also plans to expand our team of trail maintenance volunteers, believing that our trail can only be better if more people are involved in its care and are involved in giving something back to the club.



*Meet Heather Murch Continued*

Hiking is the lure that made Heather fall in love with the trail. To quote Heather "I absolutely love the physical trail". As Trail Director, Heather will have an immediate impact on the quality of Caledon's main and side trails. She has a vested interest in maintaining the club's high trail standards, and she will hike our trails regularly for the love of it, and to fulfill her responsibilities as Trail Director.

The club is grateful to Heather for taking on this very important volunteer role. All hikers will benefit greatly from Heather's expertise and her love of our trail. We wish her every success in the years ahead.



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## **DREAMING OF 2021**

**We are optimistic that we can return to offering you exciting hiking adventures in 2021!**

If you have your heart set on a particular destination and want to book it when it becomes available and safe to do so, ask to be put on our [INTERESTED LIST](#).

We will notify you as soon as we are ready to accept reservations for that particular trip. There is no obligation on your part, nor does it guarantee your spot(s).

We are working on modified terms & conditions in the short term to allow for more flexibility, so that you can confidently book a holiday.

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Kenya \* Provence & Cote d'Azur  
Tour du Mont Blanc  
Galapagos Islands \* Slovenija**

## **IN THE MEANTIME...**

We would love to keep you engaged until we can travel again. Here are 3 easy to keep in touch that would benefit us both:

**1. [Follow us on Facebook](#).**

We post daily on topics such as hiking tips & tricks, travel information, gear reviews, trip announcements and so much more.

Plus we're pretty entertaining 😊

**2. [Follow me on Instagram](#).**

Want to see amazing photos? Follow @maddhiker on Instagram. Maddhiker - that's me! Full disclosure - I sometimes also post pictures of my family and dogs.

**3. Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.**

Email us at [info@letshike.com](mailto:info@letshike.com) and ask to be put on our mailing list. You can unsubscribe any time, and we will never share your information with anyone.

**Be safe. Be kind. Stay hopeful.  
And we look forward to hiking with you  
all again soon!**

TICO # 50023501

## Fandango Quadrangle — by Heather Murch



The idea for the Caledon Hills Fandango Quadrangle was hatched during a quest to complete the Iroquoia and Niagara sections of the Bruce Trail. Rosemary, Dennis and I were hiking together to make up a missed hike toward our goal to earn both coveted winter End-to-End badges. Even for us retirees, those little badges have a surprising allure! And then there are the other benefits of hiking - the camaraderie, exercise and nature's fresh air.

Conversations on the trail often turn to 'what's next'; and 'what are others doing'. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, a dull winter day on the Niagara section, we talked about our hiking friend, Ruth, who was always organizing great hikes. Along with organizing a hike spanning the entire 900+ km of the Bruce Trail that was to be completed in what we now know as the Spring of our Discontent (aka, Pandemic 2020), Ruth was also organizing smaller hikes.

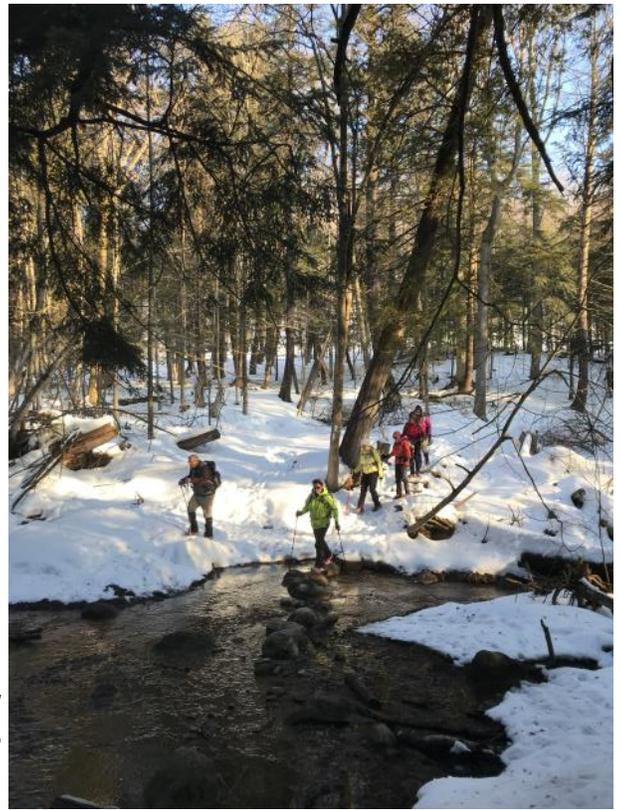
Ruth's idea to complete the side trails in Caledon Hills triggered a question: wouldn't it be fun to complete the Caledon Hills main trail, side trails and while we're at it, complete the requirements for the Canada 150 and Discovery badges? We laughed and Rosemary dubbed the hike series the Caledon Hills Fandango Quadrangle. I said I'd take a shot at organizing it.

The next day, on Superbowl Sunday I sketched out how we could complete 125km or so of trail over 6 hikes. It was complicated but doable! Over the next couple of weeks, I worked diligently to finalize the plans. It took more hours than I would care to admit as there is a fair degree of



complexity figuring out the order to complete the pieces of the trail; where to park at the end of the hike and where to shuttle to start the hikes. We figured out 6 dates and recruited another 7 hiking friends. Responsibilities were taken on by everyone including organizing the shuttling schedule, keeping us on track during each hike and taking pictures to submit to earn the Canada 150 and Discovery badges. Margaret and Jacquie were key players in their review of the planned hikes. It was quite complicated and I was grateful for their patience and diligence to work through the details as quality checkers. And sure enough, there were a couple of relatively minor glitches.

For anyone new to hiking, as I was last year, the planning and logistics of a series of hikes can be daunting. I think that accounts for a significant part of the motivation to participate in organized End to End hikes of each of the 9 Clubs that cover the Bruce Trail. At the Clubs' End to End events, you park at the end of the hike each day, get on a bus, hike back to your car and drive home. This, compared with figuring out how far to hike each day, where the closest parking lots are – not always right where you want them of course! Friends will provide carpooling and don't forget someone has to drive those friends back to their cars at the start of the hike. Whew! A lot of planning and coordination!



But that planning was all behind us when we hit the trail on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. Over the next 3 Tuesdays and Wednesdays, we enjoyed being immersed in nature. We had our share of challenges. Icers (metal spikes secured to rubber slipper-like things) on our feet were a godsend to help keep us upright on the typically slippery/icy trail. We only had a couple of wipe-outs over the 6 hikes. Icers aren't always enough.

One day, we were thankful that Dennis had a rope in his emergency stash in his backpack. After scrambling inelegantly up one craggy incline, Dennis tied the rope to a tree to give the rest of us a handhold to safely summit the treacherous and steep but short hill. The camaraderie during the hikes made the adventure so much fun. One special day, Sandy brought us all cookies that were scarfed back with delight.

None of the hikes had to be cancelled due to weather but it was a close call one day. A storm rolled in late one afternoon after we had completed the hike and headed back home.



This was my first real experience with winter hiking and I loved it and look forward to the coming winter.



## *All-Natural Christmas Trees for Sale*

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*New this year—Grinch Christmas Trees*

All proceeds go toward the Bruce Trail Conservancy's program to secure, protect and maintain a continuous conservation corridor containing the Bruce Trail along the Niagara Escarpment. The supply is limited. First come – first served.

This is a covid-friendly outdoor event where social distancing is not only possible, but is requested.

**Where:** Hockleycrest Farm, No. 933445 on the east side of Airport Road (Dufferin County Rd. #18) 4.4 km north of Hwy. 9 at Mono Mills

**When:** 10 am to 4 pm every Saturday and Sunday beginning Saturday, December 5th while supplies last.

**Payment:** Cash or e-transfer only.



For further information, contact Dave Moule at 647-973-6150 or [salydave445@gmail.com](mailto:salydave445@gmail.com)

**Every December, Santa's volunteer elves work hard making Christmas baskets and wreaths in support of the Bruce Trail Conservancy's mission to secure a footpath along the Niagara Escarpment. Please support our Covid friendly outdoor fundraiser every weekend in December while supplies last.. You can buy your Christmas tree, planters, wreaths, Bruce Trail memorabilia and merchandise, all while enjoying a delightful family outing to Hockleycrest Farm in the Hockley Valley. Also available this year for the first time will be Grinch Christmas Trees, which might just be the perfect purchase to help usher out 2020!**

The Magic of the Grinch Christmas Tree

A Grinch Tree is a small tree with a big message. A tree design that celebrates not just the joy and wonder of the season but celebrates the difficulties and challenges as well. Not only is it adorable and brings back happy childhood memories of Dr. Seuss's beloved "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", this miniature Grinch tree is also a table-top reminder of the spirit of the holidays. These one-of-a-kind Whoville trees make a great addition to your holiday decorations, or make a unique gift for friends, family, teachers, and co-workers and will have everyone as green as the Grinch with envy! If those little Who's could sing their hearts out in tough times, then so can we. "It came without ribbons; it came without tags. It came without packages, boxes, or bags." The tree is between 18"-24" tall including 1-gallon pot (6" diameter) with floral oasis to keep it fresh indoors for 3-4 weeks, after which you can place it on your porch.



Some of our Trail Maintenance Heroes



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**New Online Hike Schedule**

All 9 Bruce Trail Clubs run an extensive program of organized hikes throughout the year. Now you can browse hike listings from all of the Clubs in one convenient online location on the Bruce Trail Conservancy website, [brucetrail.org](http://brucetrail.org).

Please familiarize yourself with the new Covid 19 hiking guidelines. You must pre-register for all hikes and also complete an on-line hike waiver form.

View the [Hike Schedule Calendar](#) and check out the [guidelines](#).

## FUN FUNGI FACTS PART II - by Helen Billing

Did you know that mushrooms reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it in the ground? that 90% of forest soil is fungal?

While there are over a million species of fungi in the world, there are probably only 5,000 or so that we could find along the trail. The book I use for figuring out which fungus each photo might be is George Barron's "Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada". It has beautiful photos of about 600 species; we also use Google Images to try to confirm our guesses.



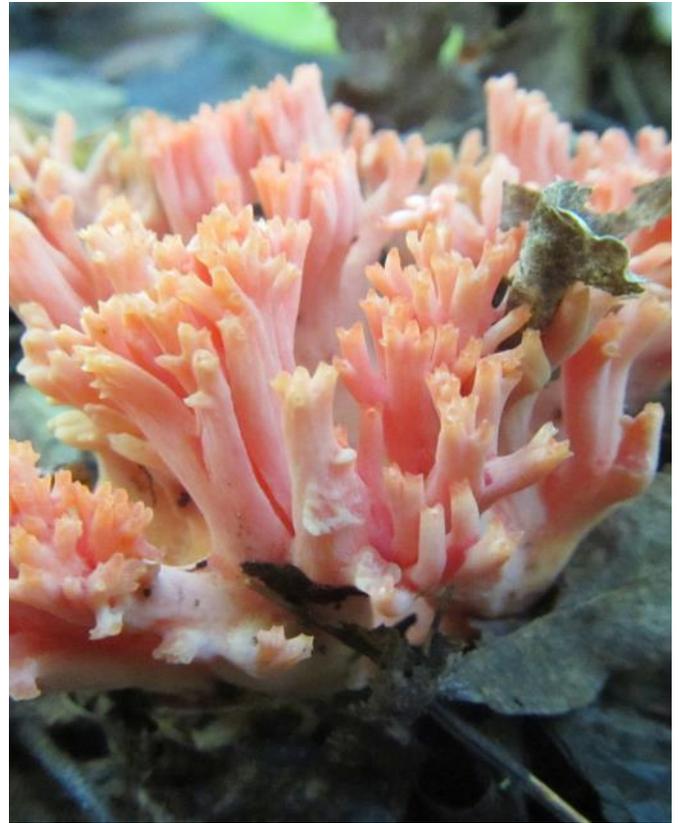
The startling orange coloured fruit body on the left is the underside of the cinnabar polypore on the right. This bracket fungus fruits on hardwood trees.

The lacquered polypore can grow up to a foot across and is a shiny red-brown colour in the centre which gets lighter towards the margins. It is different from what I think of as a bracket fungus because it can have a stalk. It also fruits on hardwood trees.





Coral fungi are fairly common on the trail and are about 3" to 4" high. Some do look very much like coral, but unlike real coral, coral fungi are soft and fragile. These three are most likely cockscomb coral, pink-tipped coral and spindle-shaped coral. Coral fungi are hard to identify according to "*Mushrooms of Ontario*" by G. Barron because "the criteria to distinguish them are based on microscopic features".



### **A Letter to the Editor:**

I have just read Helen Billing's article on fungi in the Fall Edition of the Caledon Comment. The article was very interesting but there was an error in the description of *coprinus comatus* (shaggy mane). This mushroom is in fact edible and is delicious. In the field guide "*Mushrooms of North America*", shaggy manes are described as "choice" and "one of the most delightful of all edible mushrooms". My wife (who is a Bruce Trail member) and I have enjoyed them on many occasions.

Regards, Gordon Morton, Palgrave



**This is an example of a tooth fungus. It is a hericium but whether it is a coraloides or americanum, I cannot say. This mass was about 6" wide and was on a dead hardwood trunk.**

**I think that Chicken of the Woods fungus (*laetiporus sulphureus*) is my favourite. It is a brilliant colour and is very plentiful on the Caledon Bruce Trail. It is quite startling to come across large clumps of this bracket fungus on dead hardwood trees when there is no colour left in the leaves on the ground. Why Chicken of the Woods? Apparently the soft margins of this bracket fungus are edible and have a lemony chicken taste. I have never tried it preferring to admire their beautiful colour than destroying them. Tiny pores on the underside release this species' spores.**



**Some fungi are really just to be wondered at however.**

***Recommended Reading for all BTC Members—by Louise Carberry***

***Slag, An Ecological Thriller, by David Kendall***

David is a writer, adventurer, and committed defender of Nature as well as being a generous donor to the BTC. Removing trash from the ditches around his neighborhood is a constant occupation. It is no surprise that his book *Slag* (refuse, detritus) begins with a description of what it is like to be surrounded by trash, both in the water and on land. We live in a hierarchical world where there is intense competition for our basic needs. What is it like to be a shark in the ocean today or an abandoned child anywhere? The beginning of his book *SLAG* takes you there, and then to a place where you encounter a dilemma connecting the shark and the abandoned child. How does all this come together? From the streets of Toronto to the Cheltenham Badlands and the Maritimes, this story keeps you engaged by the actions of one person to solve this puzzle.



I first met David on my rounds of Bruce Trail Calendar delivery as the new Landowner Relations Director for the Caledon Hills Club. He invited me into his home, and it was there that I first heard of his efforts in writing this book, to be sold as a fundraiser for the BTC. Other contributions he has made include donations for land purchases and a property that is part of the Ring Kiln Side Trail.

Fifty copies of the book were delivered to each of the Bruce Trail Clubs this past year. I was eager to present this as a selection for my community book club. Copies were purchased by our members and passed around with very positive reviews. And as a bonus, David was available to attend our scheduled date in June of 2020. Book lovers really enjoy hearing from an author. David was somewhat disappointed that it would be a morning event and he would have to forego the usual glass of wine that evening groups offer. But the arrival of the Covid virus wreaked havoc on our plans and suddenly we were in lockdown. The books are now stored until we can resume our social gatherings in the next year. You will be supporting our club and know a little bit more about the devastation done to sharks when you purchase a copy of *Slag*.

**PLEASE GO GREEN!**

**IN 2019 THE CLUB SPENT \$4870.00 ON PRINTING AND POSTAGE TO MAIL THE CALEDON COMMENT TO OUR MEMBERS, A DECREASE OF \$1014 SINCE 2018!**

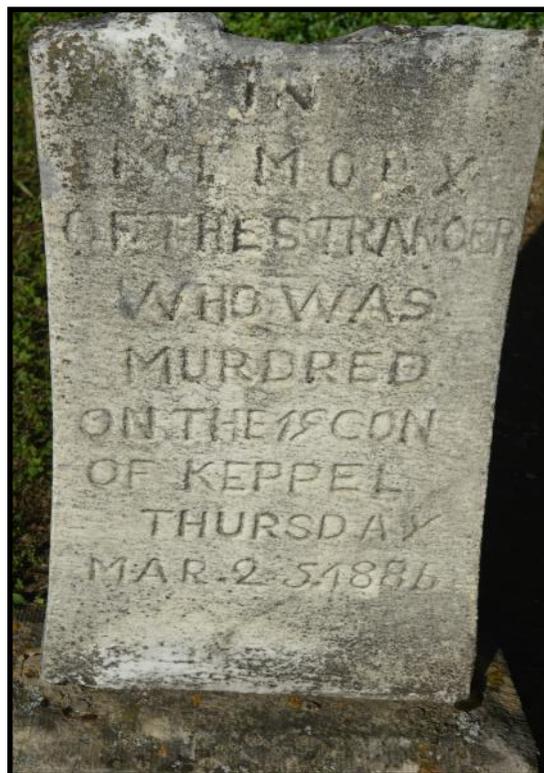
**THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO HAS AGREED TO GO GREEN. WE HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE MORE MEMBERS HAVE CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THE ELECTRONIC VERSION RATHER THAN THE PRINTED VERSION.**

**TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL CONTACT THE EDITOR AT**

**[jeankerins@yahoo.ca](mailto:jeankerins@yahoo.ca)**

## The Mystery Tombstone—by Andrew Camani

Surrounded with mystery in a secluded spot in the Oxenden Cemetery stands an old tombstone, that of Wm. Henry Preston. Henry died on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1882 and was buried in Oxenden Cemetery. The family had a tombstone erected in his memory. His wife, Mary Ann, eventually moved away from the area. When Mary Ann died in July 1909, they found a memorial engraved on the other side of her husband's tombstone. The memorial read "IN MEMORY OF THE STRANGER WHO WAS MURDERED ON THE 19 CON OF KEPPEL, THURSDAY MAR. 25 1886". The family was so shocked and upset that they buried Mary Ann in Warton Cemetery and had Henry's remains exhumed and laid beside her. The Preston family refused to take the tombstone to the Warton Cemetery.



The question now is who was this stranger? On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1886, on lot 4, township of Keppel, 20<sup>th</sup> concession, Jas A. Bailey and a hired man whose name was unknown perished in a house fire. A post mortem examination was held and marks of violence were found on the bodies. Evidence showed that a murder had been committed, and that the house was set on fire to cover the evil deed. The detective who was working the case succeeded in unravelling the mystery so far as to the confession of the one who knew the secret and the arrest of the guilty parties who committed the crime. Bailey was not killed for money but through jealousy (a love affair). Our unknown stranger was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Every year hundreds of hikers pass through the hamlet of Oxenden. The trail takes them within a stone's throw of a cemetery that is home to a unique burial site. Even though Wm. Henry Preston's name appears on the one side of the tombstone, his remains are not there. In contrast, the other side of the tombstone is nameless. Yet, the remains of the stranger rest peacefully there.

**Directions to The Mystery Tombstone: Sydenham Section of the Bruce Trail – The trail follows Grey Road 1 west to the hamlet of Oxenden (166.5 km) – turn left on Zion Church Road – Oxenden Cemetery – proceed to the far right, rear corner, near the bushes.**

**\*\*\* If you would like to support the publishing of the book "100 FORGOTTEN SITES – along the Bruce Trail" by purchasing a copy of "100 HIKERS 100 HIKES" please contact Andrew at [andrew.camani@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.camani@gmail.com)**

## Save the Date

Oh how we wish that we could plan an event so you could save the date in your calendar. One day this too shall pass. However, we are still open for Christmas Tree Sales!

Every Saturday and Sunday in December at Hockleycrest Farm you can support the BTC by purchasing your Christmas Tree, Wreaths, Baskets and Memorabilia.  
Details can be found on Page 12 and 13

## WANTED

We are looking for an enthusiastic member who is interested in joining our very congenial board to help us with club publicity. If this volunteer opportunity interests you please contact Colleen, Volunteer Coordinator, at [colleen.darrell@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.darrell@gmail.com)



Tuesday Hikers on the Health Trail near St. Jacob's, pre-Covid. Photo and Hike courtesy of Doris Harper



### The Bruce Trail Conservancy Mission:

Preserving a ribbon of wilderness, for everyone, forever.

Thank you for receiving your Caledon Comment by email, helping reduce the club's printing and postage costs.

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